School & Library Network
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2000

Members Present: Bill Black, Phil Lindley, Reginald Palmer, Gary Nichols, Joanne
Steneck, Greg Scott, Barry McCrum

Members Absent: John Vedral

1.   Minutes. Minutes from the January 19, 2000 meeting were approved.

2.   Status of Connections/Circuit Riders. Art Henry reported the following
breakdown of the current connections to MSLN: 56 Kbps-763; AEV-107;
T-1-256; ATM-21.

3.   Circuit Riders' Quarterly Report. The circuit riders reported that since the circuit
rider service began in January 1999, the three circuit riders have visited 223
schools and 205 libraries, had 981 phone contacts and 867 e-mail contacts.
They recently conducted an informal survey of the 428 sites visited. Of 128
respondents, 127 stated that they were satisfied with the service and found it
very useful.

Recently the circuit riders have been providing assistance to those sites
obtaining T-1's and those obtaining computers through the Computers for Maine
Program. There was general discussion about extending the Circuit Riders
Service through June 2001. It was agreed that Sonja Fongemie and Art Henry
would work on a proposal to be presented at the next Board meeting so the
Board can make a recommendation to the Commission.

4.   Computers for Maine. As part of the circuit rider discussion, questions arose
about the Computers for Maine program. Edna Comstock reported that there
have been generous contributions of used computers from businesses.
However, there is a backlog on repairing them at the Maine Correctional Center.
Thus far, 461 computers have been placed at 42 sites. Over 1000 requests
currently exist. Requests are prioritized by need (using E-Rate school lunch
criteria).

5.   PUC Inquiry for Implementing New Program Beginning July 2001. The Notice of
Inquiry asking for comments on a series of questions was issued on February 9,
2000. Comments are due on March 14, 2000. It was agreed that the Board
would meet on March 29, 2000 to go over the comments. The Board will
develop a number of scenarios describing possible program designs and/or a list
of issues on which to develop further comments. The Board will also decide how
to proceed to seek further input from the school and library community, with the
possibility of holding forums in April and May to seek comments on the scenarios
and/or questions.

6. <u>Governor's School Technology Initiative</u>. Commissioner Albanese, Jim Doyle and Greg Scott described the Governor's proposal to create an endowment to fund the purchase of laptop computers for entering 7th graders beginning in 2002. It was generally agreed that if the Legislature approves the initiative, the Board will be available to explore possibilities for coordinating the initiative with the MSLN.

    The next meeting will be on March 29, 2000 at 1:30 in the Commission's Hearing Room.